

SAMUEL W. CAMPBELL.

MARCH 9, 1910.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. CLAPP, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 6965.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 6965) for the relief of Samuel W. Campbell, having examined the same, report favorably and recommend its passage without amendment.

The committee beg leave to refer to the annexed letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, marked "Exhibit A," and letter of Mr. Campbell, marked "Exhibit B."

A.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, April 3, 1908.

SIR: Your letter dated the 30th ultimo is hereby acknowledged, with reference to your action in employing Delia M. Rabideau as a substitute for Charlotte E. Armstrong, a regular assistant clerk at your agency, beginning April 15, 1907.

The office is without authority to authorize the employment of substitute clerks, and as you say that Charlotte E. Armstrong has rendered no service since April 14, 1907, on account of ill-health, her services must be considered as terminating on that date, and the payment of any salary to her since that time will be disallowed in your accounts.

As Miss Armstrong is an Indian, she is entitled to reinstatement, and if her health is such that it will admit of her performing the duties of her position and you desire her reemployment, the office has no objection to her filling the vacancy. If she is not able to take up her work, you will so advise the office, and steps will be taken to fill the position in the usual manner from civil-service register.

Very respectfully,

C. F. LARRABEE,
Acting Commissioner.

UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENT,
La Pointe Agency, Ashland, Wis.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, April 7, 1908.

SIR: Your report dated April 3, showing that Delia Rabideau was appointed temporary assistant clerk at \$720 per annum on April 3, is hereby approved.

The relief of Miss Armstrong has been approved as of April 14, 1907, the last day of actual service. The vacancy will be filled at the earliest possible date in the usual manner from civil-service register; meanwhile, the temporary employment of Miss Rabideau, as of April 3, 1908, is authorized.

Very respectfully,

C. F. LARRABEE,
Acting Commissioner.

UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENT,
La Pointe Agency, Ashland, Wis.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, April 6, 1908.

SIR: Your cash accounts for the fourth quarter, 1907, and the first and second quarters, 1908, have been given a supplemental examination, and the following exceptions were noted:

"Fourth quarter, 1907. Voucher 39, pay roll. Charlotte Armstrong, assistant clerk, at \$720 per annum."

It appears that Delia M. Rabideau was employed by you as a substitute for Charlotte E. Armstrong, beginning April 15, 1907.

In office letter to you of April 3, 1908, the following statement occurs:

"The office is without authority to authorize the employment of substitute clerks, and as you say that Charlotte E. Armstrong has rendered no service since April 14, 1907, on account of ill health, her services must be considered as terminating on that date, and the payment of any salary to her since that time will be disallowed in your accounts."

The voucher shows a material misrepresentation of facts, and the payment of salary to Charlotte E. Armstrong from April 15 to June 30, 1907, is therefore suspended under the acts of March 1, 1883, and July 4, 1884. (See section 384 of Office Regulations, 1904.) Suspended, \$152.

First quarter, 1908. Voucher 46, pay roll.

Remarks to voucher 39, *supra*, apply to payment of salary to Charlotte E. Armstrong from July 1 to September 30, 1907. Suspended, \$180.

Second quarter, 1908. Voucher 36, pay roll.

Remarks to voucher 39, *supra*, apply to payment of salary to Charlotte E. Armstrong from October 1 to December 31, 1907. Suspended, \$180.

Very respectfully,

C. F. LARRABEE,
Acting Commissioner.

Mr. S. W. CAMPBELL,
United States Indian Agent, La Pointe Agency, Wis.

B.

LA POINTE INDIAN AGENCY, WIS.,
Ashland, March 30, 1908.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 26th instant, "Education 21746-1908," relative to the employment of Miss Delia M. Rabideau as substitute for Charlotte E. Armstrong, assistant clerk at this agency.

Your letter of March 12, 1907, "Education 19227-1907," appointed Sophia J. Edmundson as one of the assistant clerks at this agency. Miss Edmundson not reporting for duty, Delia M. Rabideau was temporarily employed to fill the position of assistant clerk. On April 15, 1907, Miss Edmundson entered on duty, and the services of Delia M. Rabideau as temporary assistant clerk terminated on April 14, 1907. This descriptive statement of changes was forwarded to your office April 15, 1907.

At this time Charlotte E. Armstrong, who had been for some months very much broken down in health, stated that it was imperative that she go west for a while in order that she might try and regain her health. Her trouble is considered tuberculosis, and it was hoped that the trip might be beneficial to her. In a little more than a month Miss Armstrong returned and hoped to be able in a few days to resume her duties and asked that Miss Rabideau, who had been serving as her substitute, commencing April 15, 1907, continue to fill her place until such time as she was able to go to work. Miss Armstrong has never since that time been able to resume her duties, although she has been hopeful that she might, and Miss Rabideau has very efficiently filled her place as assistant clerk at this agency.

You desire to know in your said letter if Miss Armstrong has ever applied for any leave, either sick or annual, and whether it has been granted, and if so, the date of the letters. I would say that she has never applied for leave of absence of any kind and none has been granted to her.

A short time before Miss Armstrong was obliged to give up work she took civil-service examination for assistant clerk and passed with an unusually high average. She is an Indian girl, bright and intelligent, and a graduate of the high school of this city, and has also been a teacher of the public schools here. It was my desire to assist her, as she had only just been permanently appointed under civil-service rules, and to hold her place if possible.

I was also actuated in retaining Miss Rabideau as a substitute for Miss Armstrong by the fact that Miss Edmundson, who had recently been appointed, had no knowledge of the duties of her position, and, with Miss Armstrong, the other assistant clerk, absent, it would be extremely difficult to carry on the correspondence and typewriting work of the agency with an entire new set of clerks.

Miss Rabideau, who has been serving temporarily, had proved herself a very capable and painstaking employee, and I was desirous at that time, and am now, of retaining her services if possible. I am aware of the fact that the whole proceeding was somewhat irregular, but the Government has not been defrauded of a penny, as Miss Rabideau received exactly the salary that Miss Armstrong would have received.

My experience since I have been agent has been that the employees sent to perform the clerical work of this agency have been very far from satisfactory. The duties are arduous, and when I am able to procure a satisfactory clerk I desire to retain her. Any blame in this matter of course must rest on my shoulders. It is not probable at the present time that Miss Armstrong can regain her health to warrant her in resuming her position, but I strongly desire to retain Miss Rabideau in the position if it is possible to do so.

Respectfully,

S. W. CAMPBELL,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

LA POINTE INDIAN AGENCY, WIS.,
Ashland, April 3, 1908.

SIR: I would respectfully state that on receipt of your telegram of the 2d instant, which is as follows: "Your letter of March 30—relieve Delia Rabideau immediately," that said Delia M. Rabideau was discharged. I then 'phoned Charlotte E. Armstrong, who had passed the examination and was regularly appointed to the position, asking her if she was able to resume her duties, and she informed me that she was not and that it would be useless to hold the position for her any longer. I then asked her if she wanted to resign, and she stated she did, and I have her resignation, dated the 2d instant, which I inclose you herein.

On account of the great amount of work in this office I had to have a clerk until you fill the position, so I accepted her resignation and appointed Delia M. Rabideau to the position temporarily, until the place is regularly filled by your office. It is impossible for me to get along without the full quota of clerks, and most of them claim they are worked harder here than any place in the service.

I inclose you herein descriptive statement of changes made in the force of agency employees at La Pointe Agency, Wis., showing the resignation of Charlotte E. Armstrong and the temporary appointment of Delia M. Rabideau, which I hope you will approve.

In explanation of the course I have taken in this matter I would respectfully state that I did not wish to violate the rules and regulations of the department in the least, but I had an Indian girl here who had passed a creditable examination, and as long

as her health lasted she filled her position as good—I may say with the exception of perhaps one or two—as any clerk I have had in the office. She took sick and was not able to perform her duties, and I had to have a clerk fill her place temporarily. The clerk she procured, Miss Rabideau, filled her position satisfactorily, and as long as she performed the work required of her I did not see as there was anything wrong in the transaction. There was no intention on my part to deceive anyone in regard to it, though it may have been somewhat irregular.

Miss Armstrong took her vacation out west, and she found her health did not improve much, and she came home. She was here only half a day and stated that she did not wish to take up the work until she was fully restored to health. It was partly to keep this position for this Indian girl and partly because of having an excellent substitute that I have let this run as long as I did.

Mr. Rodman, the chief clerk, dictated the letter written you the 30th ultimo, according to instructions from me to simply state the facts of the case, which he did. If any wrong has been perpetrated, I am the guilty one and am willing to take the reprimand if you deem it necessary. There was no intention to practice any fraud or deception whatever, and I do not think the interest of the Government has suffered in the least, nor has it lost one cent by the transaction.

All of which is respectfully submitted for your information.

Respectfully,

S. W. CAMPBELL,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

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